



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Theodore Roosevelt
National Park

PO Box 7
Medora, ND 58645

701-623-4466 phone
701-623-4840 fax
www.nps.gov/thro

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News Release

Immediate Release

Eileen Andes 701-623-4466

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National Park Wilderness Hike Highlights the Spring Season

Theodore Roosevelt National Park will usher in the summer season with the first in a series of Wilderness Hikes on Sunday, May 30. This springtime outing will highlight early wildflowers, a symphony of sounds as migratory birds return to their favorite nesting areas, and newborn wildlife. Backcountry Ranger John Heiser will lead the hike into the park's North Unit wilderness to observe the sights and sounds of the season.

"The park's backcountry is beautiful this time of year, and the hike will take people where they might not go on their own," said Superintendent Valerie Naylor. "This is a great opportunity for visitors to spend part of Memorial Day weekend exploring the park with an experienced ranger."

Hikers should meet Heiser at the picnic area in the Juniper Campground in the park's North Unit at 9:00 a.m. CDT. Group size and weather conditions will determine the length and time of the hike, which could last from 4 to 6 hours and cover 2 to 6 miles. Participants should be prepared for strenuous hiking and wear sturdy boots and durable clothes. It is essential that each person bring plenty of drinking water, food, sunscreen, and insect repellent. Binoculars, cameras, and a favorite poem or quote are also encouraged. In the case of extreme weather, the hike may be cancelled; please call the North Unit Visitor Center at 701-842-2333 for current information.

Additional North Unit wilderness hikes will be offered on June 13, July 4, August 1, and September 5.

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